

POTATO STOCKS

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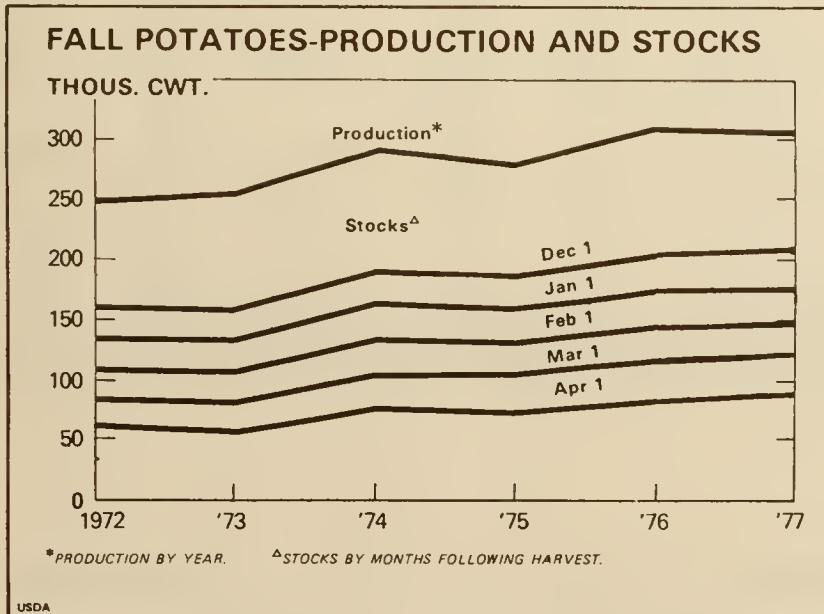
APRIL 1 POTATO STOCKS ABOVE LAST YEAR

An estimated 89.0 million cwt. of potatoes for all uses were in storage in the fall producing areas on April 1, 1978. This is 9 percent above a year earlier and 24 percent more than in 1976.

The regional breakdown is as follows: The eight Eastern States had 13.0 million cwt. in storage, up 23 percent from a year earlier. Maine's stocks of 11.0 million cwt. compare with 8.4 million cwt. in 1977. New York and Pennsylvania continue to show stocks below last year's level. Stocks in the eight Central States totaled 14.0 million cwt., 73 percent above a year ago. Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin continue to show stocks significantly greater than last year. The eight Western States had 61.9 million cwt. in storage, down 2 percent from 1977 due mostly to significant reductions in Washington. Stocks in Idaho were 37.5 million cwt., 6 percent above last year.

Disappearance of the 1977 fall crop to April 1, 1978 was 210.2 million cwt. (excluding Nevada), a decrease of 5 percent from a year ago.

The quantity of potatoes processed to April 1, 1978 in the seven major States is 82.6 million cwt., 7 percent less than last year.



NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including shrinkage and waste and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes generally account for about 90 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage and loss and home use account for the remaining 10 percent.

TABLE 1. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION; AND DECEMBER 1, JANUARY 1, FEBRUARY 1, MARCH 1, AND APRIL 1 TOTAL STOCKS, CROPS OF 1967-77 IN THE FALL STATES

CROP YEAR	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS FOLLOWING YEAR					APR 1
		DEC 1	JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1		
		1,000 CWT					
1967	243,849	161,500	139,170	112,640	86,465		
1968	234,832	152,810	130,350	104,995	81,940		
1969	252,561	162,800	138,140	111,510	87,620		
1970	267,827	175,145	150,030	122,230	96,780		
1971 1/	266,707	176,390	151,435	124,375	98,485		
1972 2/	249,320	158,565	134,420	107,310	83,380	58,250	
1973	254,379	157,837	133,665	106,615	81,165	55,870	
1974	289,342	187,935	163,095	133,425	104,116	75,905	
1975	278,391	185,965	159,140	131,685	104,050	71,640	
1976	307,427	201,980	174,775	143,925	114,140	81,875	
1977	304,427	207,030	178,215	149,305	121,275	88,965	

1/ BEGINNING WITH 1971, LATE SUMMER PRODUCTION FOR NEW YORK-LONG ISLAND, WISCONSIN AND WASHINGTON HAS BEEN CLASSIFIED AS FALL. 2/ APRIL 1 STOCKS EFFECTIVE WITH 1972 CROP YEAR.

TABLE 2. POTATOES USED FOR PROCESSING 1/, SEVEN STATES, 1976 AND 1977 CROP 2/

STATE	STORAGE SEASON	TO					ENTIRE SEASON
		TO	TO	TO	TO		
		DEC 1	JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1		
1,000 CWT							
IDAHO AND MALHEUR CO., OREG	1976-77	18,125	24,215	30,070	36,380	43,575	68,030
	1977-78	16,675	22,200	27,305	32,870	39,050	
MAINE 3/	1976-77	2,575	3,380	4,235	5,105	6,055	7,275
	1977-78	2,315	3,020	3,965	4,980	5,960	
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1976-77	16,005	19,550	23,435	27,960	32,190	45,535
	1977-78	14,210	17,775	21,865	26,400	30,280	
OTHER STATES 4/	1976-77	2,385	3,355	4,470	5,550	6,780	7,600
	1977-78	3,300	4,210	5,355	6,185	7,340	
TOTAL	1976-77	39,090	50,500	62,210	74,995	88,600	128,440
	1977-78	36,500	47,205	58,490	70,435	82,630	

1/ TOTAL QUANTITY RECEIVED AND USED FOR PROCESSING REGARDLESS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE POTATOES WERE PRODUCED. DOES NOT INCLUDE QUANTITIES USED FOR POTATO CHIPS IN MAINE, MICHIGAN OR MINNESOTA. 2/ 1976-77 REVISED. 3/ INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY. 4/ MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA AND NORTH DAKOTA.

TABLE 3. POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND TOTAL STOCKS OF FALL POTATOES HELD BY GROWERS, PROCESSORS, AND LOCAL DEALERS ON APRIL 1, 1977 AND APRIL 1, 1978

STATE	CROP OF 1976		CROP OF 1977	
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS
	APR 1, 1977	APR 1, 1978	1,000 CWT	
CALIF	6,475	1,200	5,950	1,300
COLO	9,257	2,100	9,490	2,150
CONN	494	1/	466	1/
IDAHO	88,455	35,500	88,200	37,500
IND	1,530	70	1,128	60
MAINE	27,440	8,400	28,320	11,000
MASS	770	1/	888	1/
MICH	8,330	1,500	8,800	1,500
MINN	11,055	2,100	12,960	3,600
MONT	1,806	1,100	2,016	1,050
NEBR	1,274	250	1,380	280
N H	104	1/	71	1/
N Y - L I - UPSTATE	7,409	230	6,726	200
N DAK	6,101	750	5,356	650
	16,940	2,600	20,800	3/ 6,100
OHIO	2,933	150	2,744	140
OREG	28,913	7,500	25,774	8,400
PA	7,140	1,150	6,375	1,070
R I	1,050	1/	943	1/
S DAK	286	40	1,062	155
UTAH	1,248	180	1,296	130
VT	226	1/	235	1/
WASH	55,800	15,200	48,685	11,300
WIS	15,370	1,400	18,038	2,200
WYO	1,701	370	1,474	80
OTHER STATES		85		100
24 STATE TOTAL	302,107	81,875	299,177	88,965
NEV	5,320	2/	5,250	2/
TOTAL 25 FALL STATES:	307,427		304,427	

1/ STOCKS INCLUDED IN "OTHER STATES". 2/ NOT INCLUDED TO AVOID DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS. 3/ USERS ARE CAUTIONED THAT THE STOCKS ESTIMATE FOR NORTH DAKOTA MAY BE LESS RELIABLE THAN FOR THE OTHER STATES DUE TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF NORTH DAKOTA STORAGE OPERATORS WHO REFUSED TO REPORT STOCKS ON THE APRIL 1978 INQUIRY.

POTATO STOCKS QUALITY SURVEY
MINNESOTA AND NORTH DAKOTA (RED RIVER VALLEY)

The potato stocks quality information contained in this report is based on a survey conducted by the Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service in the Red River Valley of North Dakota and Minnesota. A total of 129 samples selected on a random basis were placed in storages at harvest time. This report, which shows the cumulative average grade and weight loss for the potatoes removed from storage at the time of shipment, will be the final report issued for this season.

At the request of the Red River Valley Potato Growers Association, samples were selected this year for processing potatoes only. Since few Red-type potatoes are used for processing, data are not published for this type.

Samples recovered before April 1, 1978 indicate that the quality of the white and Russet varieties was higher this year at harvest and also for those removed from storage by April 1. The decline in No. 1 grade (including B's) for samples removed from storage this year was 14 percent (12 points) for white varieties and 12 percent (10 points) for Russet varieties. This compares with a 24 percent decline for white varieties and a 15 percent decline for Russet varieties during the same period a year earlier. The percent graded as culls after storage is below a year ago for both varieties. Total weight loss while in storage for samples recovered to date is the same as last year.

Final data for the 1976-77 storage season are also provided and show the average grade at harvest and after storage for all samples which were recovered from storage.

POTATO STOCKS QUALITY SURVEY, RED RIVER VALLEY, 1977-78
AVERAGE GRADE OF POTATOES

TYPE	NO. 1		NO. 2		CULLS		NO. 1 B'S	
	INCLUDING B'S	AT HARVEST	AT HARVEST	AFTER STORAGE	AT HARVEST	AFTER STORAGE	AFTER STORAGE	STORAGE 1/
PERCENT								
SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE APRIL 1, 1978 2/								
WHITE	87	75	7	11	6	14	6	5
RUSSET	86	76	6	11	8	13	7	4
SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE APRIL 1, 1977 2/								
WHITE	86	65	8	14	6	21	9	5
RUSSET	84	71	9	11	7	18	6	4
ALL SAMPLES 1976-77 STORAGE SEASON-FINAL								
WHITE	87	68	7	14	6	18	9	7
RUSSET	85	70	8	12	7	18	6	8

1/ NO. 1 B'S ARE POTATOES THAT MEET THE U.S. NO. 1 GRADE BUT DO NOT MEET MINIMUM SIZE STANDARDS FOR THE AREA: RED AND WHITE VARIETIES - $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{4}$ INCHES IN DIAMETER AND RUSSET VARIETIES - UNDER 2 INCHES IN DIAMETER OR LESS THAN 4 OUNCES.

2/ MATCHED SAMPLES, QUALITY AT HARVEST COMPARED WITH QUALITY AFTER STORAGE.